

Remarks

The Examiner indicated that the claims of the application were directed to the patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, Species 1, shown in Fig. 2; Species 2, shown in Fig. 3; and Species 3 shown in Fig. 4. The Examiner further indicated that the applicant must elect either an electromagnetic or a piezoelectric actuator.

The Examiner also indicated that the applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 and 18 are generic.

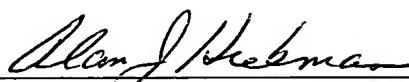
Further, the Examiner advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by and election.

The applicant hereby elects Species 1, Fig. 2 of the above-identified application without traverse for purposes of prosecution. Further, the applicant elects an electromagnetic actuator. The Species 1 claims that read on Fig. 2 are claims 1-7, 8, and 17-19.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 and 18 were generic. The applicant believes that claims 1-5 and 17-19 are generic. Each of the Species 1, 2 and 3 may include: "a valve element portion" (claim 2); "a plurality of vent passages" (claim 3); "an annular portion disposed in a one of said body and said movable member" (claim 4); and "an annular portion disposed in each of said body and said movable member" (claim 5). Further, method claims 17-19 are generic to Species 1, 2 and 3. Figs. 2, 3 and 4 each may include: "venting leakage from a location between said actuator and a fluid passage (claim 17); "moving said movable member when fluid is at a second temperature, and said temperature is less than said first temperature" (claim 18); and "venting said leakage fluid through an annular portion (claim 19).

It is respectfully submitted that the above response is complete. The undersigned invites telephone calls to the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alan J. Hickman", is written over a horizontal line.

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